

(vectors, promoters, and terminators) derived from plant pathogenic sources. Event 176 Corn was evaluated in field trials conducted under APHIS permits in 1992 and 1993, and under APHIS notifications in 1993 and 1994. In the process of reviewing the applications for field trials of the subject corn, APHIS determined that the vectors and other elements were disarmed and that the trials, which were conducted under conditions of reproductive and physical containment or isolation, would not present a risk of plant pest introduction or dissemination.

In the Federal Plant Pest Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 150aa *et seq.*), "plant pest" is defined as "any living stage of: Any insects, mites, nematodes, slugs, snails, protozoa, or other invertebrate animals, bacteria, fungi, other parasitic plants or reproductive parts thereof, viruses, or any organisms similar to or allied with any of the foregoing, or any infectious substances, which can directly or indirectly injure or cause disease or damage in any plants or parts thereof, or any processed, manufactured or other products of plants." APHIS views this definition very broadly. The definition covers direct or indirect injury, disease or damage not just to agricultural crops, but also to plants in general, for example, native species, as well as to organisms that may be beneficial to plants, for example, honeybees, rhizobia, etc.

This genetically engineered corn is also currently subject to regulation by other agencies. The EPA is responsible for the regulation of pesticides under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), as amended (7 U.S.C. 136 *et seq.*). FIFRA requires that all pesticides, including insecticides, be registered prior to distribution or sale, unless exempt by EPA regulation. Accordingly, Ciba Seeds has submitted to the EPA an application to register this transgenic plant pesticide, the *Btk* CryIA(b) insect control protein as produced in corn. On January 13, 1995, EPA announced receipt of this application (EPA File Symbol 66736-R) in the **Federal Register** (60 FR 3209; OPP-30377; FRL-4928-9).

Under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 *et seq.*), pesticides added to raw agricultural commodities generally are considered to be unsafe unless a tolerance or exemption from tolerance has been established. Foods containing unsafe pesticides are deemed to be adulterated. Residue tolerances for pesticides are established by EPA under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act; the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) enforces the tolerances set by the EPA.

Ciba Seeds has also submitted to the EPA a pesticide petition (pp 4F4395) proposing to amend 40 CFR part 180 to establish a tolerance exemption for residues of the plant pesticide active ingredient *B. thuringiensis* delta-endotoxin as produced in corn by a *cryIA(b)* gene and its controlling sequences. On February 1, 1995, EPA announced receipt of this petition in the **Federal Register** (60 FR 6092-6093; PF-618; FRL-4930-3).

Consistent with the "Coordinated Framework for Regulation of Biotechnology" (51 FR 23302-23350, June 26, 1986), APHIS and the EPA are coordinating their review of this genetically engineered corn to avoid duplication and assure that all relevant issues are addressed.

The FDA published a statement of policy on foods derived from new plant varieties in the **Federal Register** on May 29, 1992 (57 FR 22984-23005). The FDA statement of policy includes a discussion of the FDA authority for ensuring food safety under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, and provides guidance to industry on the scientific considerations associated with the development of foods derived from new plant varieties, including those plants developed through the techniques of genetic engineering.

In accordance with § 340.6(d) of the regulations, we are publishing this notice to inform the public that APHIS will accept written comments regarding the Petition for Determination of Nonregulated Status from any interested person for a period of 60 days from the date of this notice. The petition and any comments received are available for public review, and copies of the petition may be ordered (see the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice).

After the comment period closes, APHIS will review the data submitted by the petitioner, all written comments received during the comment period, and any other relevant information. Based on the available information, APHIS will furnish a response to the petitioner, either approving the petition in whole or in part, or denying the petition. APHIS will then publish a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the regulatory status of Ciba Seeds' Event 176 Corn and the availability of APHIS' written decision.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 150aa-150jj, 151-167, and 1622n; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 7 CFR 2.17, 2.51, and 371.2(c).

Done in Washington, DC, this 13th day of February 1995.

Lonnie J. King,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 95-4182 Filed 2-17-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-M

[Docket No. 95-010-1]

Receipt of Permit Applications for Release Into the Environment of Genetically Engineered Organisms

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that seven applications for permits to release genetically engineered organisms into the environment are being reviewed by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. The applications have been submitted in accordance with 7 CFR part 340, which regulates the introduction of certain genetically engineered organisms and products.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the applications referenced in this notice, with any confidential business information deleted, are available for public inspection in room 1141, South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect an application are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the reading room. You may obtain copies of the documents by writing to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Arnold Foudin, Deputy Director, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Biotechnology, Biologics, and Environmental Protection, Biotechnology Permits, 4700 River Road Unit 147, Riverdale, MD 20737-1237. The telephone number for the agency contact will change when agency offices in Hyattsville, MD, move to Riverdale, MD, during February. Telephone: (301) 436-7612 (Riverdale).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The regulations in 7 CFR part 340, "Introduction of Organisms and Products Altered or Produced Through Genetic Engineering Which Are Plant Pests or Which There Is Reason to Believe Are Plant Pests," require a person to obtain a permit before introducing (importing, moving

interstate, or releasing into the environment) into the United States certain genetically engineered organisms and products that are considered "regulated articles." The regulations set forth procedures for

obtaining a permit for the release into the environment of a regulated article, and for obtaining a limited permit for the importation or interstate movement of a regulated article.

Pursuant to these regulations, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has received and is reviewing the following applications for permits to release genetically engineered organisms into the environment:

Application No.	Applicant	Date received	Organisms	Field test location
94-355-01	Betaseed Incorporated.	12/21/94	Sugar beet plants genetically engineered to express resistance to the rhizomania virus and tolerance to the herbicide glufosinate.	California, Idaho.
94-362-01	Betaseed Incorporated.	12/28/94	Sugar beet plants genetically engineered to express tolerance to the herbicide glufosinate.	Idaho.
94-362-02	University of Wisconsin.	12/28/94	Alfalfa plants genetically engineered to express either a lignin peroxidase or an alpha amylase, and marker genes encoding neomycin phosphotransferase or beta glucuronidase.	Oregon, Wisconsin.
95-003-01	U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service.	1/03/95	<i>Fusarium graminearum</i> genetically engineered to express altered levels of mycotoxin production.	Illinois, Indiana.
95-010-01	Monsanto Company ..	1/10/95	Wheat plants genetically engineered to express genes for fungal resistance.	Illinois.
95-010-02	Monsanto Company ..	1/10/95	Wheat plants genetically engineered to express various marker genes.	Illinois, Montana.
95-019-01	Asgrow Seed Company.	1/19/95	Carrot plants genetically engineered to express genes for fungal resistance.	Michigan.

Done in Washington, DC, this 13th day of February 1995.

Lonnie J. King,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 95-4181 Filed 2-17-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-M

Forest Service

Siouxon Timber Sales and Other Integrated Resource Projects, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Skamania County, Washington

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Cancellation of an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: On October 11, 1990, a Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Siouxon Timber Sales and Other integrated Resource Projects on the Wind River Ranger District of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest was published in the **Federal Register** (55 FR 41363). The Forest Service has decided not to prepare an EIS on this proposal; therefore, this Notice of Intent is rescinded.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Direct questions regarding this cancellation to Julie Knutson, Project Leader, Wind River Ranger District, Carson, Washington 98610; phone (509) 427-5645.

Dated: February 6, 1995.

Ted Stubblefield,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 95-4130 Filed 2-17-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

China Basin Fire Recovery and Associated Activities Kootenai National Forest, Lincoln County, Montana

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The China Basin and Quartz 3 Wildfires burned over 7,400 acres of Kootenai National Forest system lands in the late summer of 1994. The Forest Service intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess and disclose the environmental effects of opportunities designed to recover economic value of burned timber, reduce future fuels accumulations, improve bighorn sheep winter range, rehabilitate existing sediment sources, improve hydrologic conditions in affected watersheds, and protect long-term soil productivity. These objectives would be accomplished through salvage harvest of fire-killed timber; harvest of fire-killed and green timber in bighorn sheep winter range; reforestation of harvested and severely burned areas; fuels reduction in harvested areas; restoration of roads, revegetation of road cuts and fill slopes, and drainage improvement

on existing roads; and providing for immediate and long-term recruitment of instream large woody material within the China Basin decision area. The China Basin decision area is located approximately 5 air miles northwest of Libby, Montana.

The proposal's actions to salvage fire-killed trees and reforest burned areas, harvest green and fire-killed trees in bighorn sheep habitat, restore roads, reduce fuels, and implement watershed recovery projects are being considered together because they represent either connected or cumulative actions as defined by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1508.25). The EIS will tier to the Kootenai National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and Final EIS of September 1987, which provides overall guidance for achieving the desired forest condition of the area.

DATES: Written comments and suggestions should be received within 30 days following publication of this notice.

ADDRESSES: The Responsible Official is Robert L. Schrenk, Forest Supervisor, Kootenai National Forest. Written comments and suggestions concerning the scope of the analysis should be sent to Lawrence A. Froberg, District Ranger, Libby Ranger District, 12557 HWY 37, Libby, Montana, 59923.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michele Holman, Planning Forester, Libby Ranger Station. Phone: (406) 293-8861.